

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 were submitted for examination, subsequently Claims 8-12 were elected without traverse in response to a restriction requirement mailed 11 April 2005. In this Office Action, the pending claims 8-10, and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koregelos (US Patent No.:4,114,504, hereinafter "Koregelos") in view of Mekler (US Patent No.:5,171,925, hereinafter "Mekler"). Claim 11 was allowable over Koregelos in view of Mekler: however, Claim 11 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected Claim 8.

In the forgoing amendments, independent Claim 8 has been amended and Claim 11 has been canceled. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of Claims 8-10 and 12 is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

As indicated by the Examiner, Claim 11 and 46 is objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims but would be allowable if rewritten to include all limitations in the base claim. In pursuit to the suggestion by the Examiner, Applicant has amended independent Claim 8 to include the exact features of Claim 11. And Claim 11 is subsequently cancelled. A new limitation added to independent Claim 8 is as follows:

wherein the plurality of filaments has different length along the elongated member (*emphasis added*)

Since Claim 8 now recites a new limitation that is not disclosed, taught, nor suggested by Koregelos and Mekler, viewed alone or in combination, Applicant believes Claim 8 shall be allowable over the cited reference. Reconsideration of Claim 8 is respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 10 and 12 are dependent on Claim 8. Therefore, Claims 9, 10 and 12 shall be allowable for at least the same reasons stated above with regard to independent Claim 8.

Summary

In summary, none of the cited references, viewed alone or in combination, have taught or suggested the combined features recited in the pending claims. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes that amended Claims 8-10 and 12 shall be in condition for allowance over the cited references. Early and favourable action is being respectfully solicited.

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplementary Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (408)255-6853.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, Fax. No. 703-872-9306 on the date stated below.

Date: May 9, 2005

Signature: /Roger H. Chu, Reg.#: 52745/
Roger H. Chu

Respectfully submitted;

/Roger H. Chu, Reg.#: 52,745/
Roger H. Chu
Reg. No.: 52,745